GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3827
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2001
REVISION OF CRITERIA FOR BPL
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present criteria for determining beneficiaries of Below Poverty Line (BPL) category;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise the criteria for the BPL category so as to include more families;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a): The identification of the poor under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is done by States as per State-wise poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 based on the methodology of the `Expert Group on Estimation of proportion and number of poor` chaired by late Prof. Lakdawala on the population projections of 1995. The poverty estimates were revised by Planning Commission subsequently for Andhra Pradesh after eliminating the price depressing effect of the State Government`s own food subsidy scheme and for the north eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir bringing them at par with the poverty ratio for Assam.

(b), (c) & (d): The estimated number of BPL families have increased from 586.64 lakh to 652.04 lakh by shifting the base to population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of earlier base of 1995 with effect from 1.12.2000.